IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 30 in accordance with the following:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the step of utilizing state attributes selected from the group consisting of an operational state, an administrative state, and a usage state as state information.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of defining said normal state by predetermined values for said state attributes selected from the group consisting of said operational state, said administrative state, and said usage state.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the step of utilizing state attributes for characterizing an operational readiness, manageability and use of a resource supported by said agent in said communication system as state information.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the step of utilizing status attributes, which specify for a resource supported by said agent in said communication system whether it is in an unknown state, in an alarmed state or in a state availability, as state information.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the step of:

sending, by said manager in said request message, a correlation information item for a correlation of said respective request with messages containing changed state information received by said agent.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the step of:

sending, by said agent in a message for starting said state realignment, a correlation information item for correlating the messages containing changed state information subsequently sent with said state realignment started in each case.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the step of sending said correlation information generated by said agent in said message or messages containing said changed state information.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

sending, by said manager, a parameter to said agent; and

controlling, by said manager, said state realignment in dependence on said parameter.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

sending, by said manager, a parameter;

automatically initiating said state realignment by said agent, utilizing said parameter.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of providing a parameter by said manager with a parameter value which specifies a starting time for said automatic state realignment.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of providing a parameter by said manager with a parameter value which specifies an end time for said automatic state realignment.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of providing a parameter by said manager, a parameter with a parameter value which specifies a time interval for a repetition of said automatic state realignment.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of providing, by said manager, a parameter with a parameter value which characterizes resources for which changed state information must be transmitted by said agent.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of providing, by said manager, a parameter with a parameter value that permits interruption of a running state realignment.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising the step of sending, by said manager, said parameter to said agent in said request message.

17. (Currently Amended) A communication system for ~~processing~~ state realignment of state information in a management network having a number of management levels, comprising:

an agent at a first management level storing state information together with managed objects associated ~~there~~with the first management level, the state information defining a state of network resources associated with the managed objects stored in the agent, where each item of state information, for which state realignment shall be performed, can assume at least two values; and

a manager, at a second management level above the first management level, sending a request message for performing state realignment to said agent, said agent checking the state information of said agent with regard to deviations from a normal state defined by one of a predefined value and a combination of predefined values, and sending only deviant state information of said agent indicating the deviations from the normal state of the state information to said manager in response to the request message.

18. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 17, wherein state attributes are provided selected from the group consisting of an operational state, an administrative state, and a usage state as state information.

19. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 18, in which the normal state is defined by values for said state attributes selected from the group consisting of an operational state, an administrative state, a usage state, an unknown state, an alarm status, and an available status.

20. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 17, wherein state attributes are provided for characterizing an operational readiness, a manageability and a use of a resource supported by said agent in said communication system as state information.

21. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 17, wherein status attributes, which specify for a resource supported by said agent in said communication system whether it is in an unknown state, in an alarm state or in a state of availability, are provided as state information.

22. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said state realignment can be controlled by said facilities in said manager in dependence on at least one parameter sent to said agent.

23. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 17, wherein said facilities in said manager send a parameter permitting said state realignment to be automatically initiated by said agent.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the step of utilizing state attributes selected from the group consisting of an unknown state, an alarm status, and an available status as state information.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising the step of defining said normal state by predeterminable values for said state attributes selected from the group consisting of said unknown state, said alarm status, and said available status.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of providing, by said manager, a parameter with a parameter value which characterizes resources for which changed state information must be transmitted by said agent.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of providing, by said manager, a parameter with a parameter value that permits interruption of a running state realignment.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the step of sending, by said manager, said parameter to said agent in said request message.

29. (Previously Presented) The communication system as claimed in claim 17, wherein state attributes are provided selected from the group consisting of an unknown state, an alarm status, and an available status as state information.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~processing~~ state realignment of state information in a communication system by way of a management network having a number of management levels, comprising:

storing, at an agent of a first management level together with managed objects, state information which defines a state of network resources associated with the managed objects stored in the agent, where each item of state information, for which state realignment shall be performed, can assume at least two values;

defining a normal state of the state information by one of a predefined value and a combination of predefined values;

sending, to the agent from a manager at a second management level above the first management level, a request message for performing the state realignment;

comparing by the agent, the state information ~~previously~~ stored by the agent for deviation from a normal state of the state information; and

sending, by the agent to the manager in response to the request message, only deviant state information indicating deviation from the normal state of the state information previously stored by the agent and not sending state information which does not deviate from the normal state of the state information.

31. (Currently Amended) A communication system undergoing state realignment, comprising:

an agent of a first management level that stores ~~a~~ state information which defines a state of network resources associated with managed objects stored in the agent, where each item of state information, for which state realignment shall be performed, can assume at least two values; and

a manager at a second management level that sends a request message for performing state realignment to the agent; wherein the agent compares the state information ~~previously~~ stored by the agent for deviation from a normal state, defined by one of a predefined value and a combination of predefined values, and sends deviant state information of the agent indicating the deviations from the normal state of the state information to the manager only in response to the request.

32. (Previously Presented) The communication system as recited in claim 17, wherein the state information is a state of a resource.

33. (Previously Presented) The communication system as recited in claim 32, wherein the state includes representation of at least one of operational readiness, manageability, and use of the resource in the communication system.

34. (Previously Presented) The communication system as recited in claim 33, wherein the state is defined by a telecommunications industry standard.